

ATCC Parent Deposit No. PTA-2736). In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the spheroid disadheres from the cell monolayer when exposed to a culture media containing absent Ca^{++} or anti-E-cadherin antibody.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 13-27, amend claims 1, 5, 12 and 28, and add claims 50-52 as follows:

B2 1. (AMENDED) A human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft, wherein the xenograft grows within lymphatic and blood vessel channels of an immunocompromised host and comprises the following properties:

- i) does not express estrogen receptor and progesterone receptor; and
- ii) expresses P53, EGFR, MUC1 and E-cadherin.

2. The xenograft of claim 1, wherein the level of E-cadherin expressed by the xenograft is at least two-fold greater than the level of E-cadherin expressed by a noninflammatory breast cancer xenograft.

3. The xenograft of claim 2, wherein the xenograft expresses α -catenin and β -catenin and the levels of α -catenin and β -catenin expressed by the xenograft are at least two-fold greater than the levels of α -catenin and β -catenin expressed by a noninflammatory breast cancer xenograft.

4. The xenograft of claim 3, wherein the xenograft does not express Her-2/neu.

B3 5. (AMENDED) A human inflammatory breast carcinoma xenograft designated MARY-X and having American Type Culture Collection Accession Number PTA-2737.

6. An in vitro culture of a human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft, wherein the xenograft grows as a spheroid and comprises the following properties:

- i) does not express estrogen receptor and progesterone receptor; and
- ii) expresses P53, EGFR, MUC1 and E-cadherin.

7. The in vitro culture of a human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft of claim 6, wherein the spheroid can attach to a cell monolayer.
8. The in vitro culture of a human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft of claim 7, wherein the spheroid disadheres from the cell monolayer when exposed to a culture media containing absent Ca^{++} or anti-E-cadherin antibody.
9. A method of generating the xenograft of claim 1 comprising the steps of:
- (a) obtaining a breast sample from a patient;
 - (b) identifying cells in the sample as an inflammatory carcinoma exhibiting florid invasion of dermal lymphatics;
 - (c) implanting the sample into an immunocompromised host; and
 - (d) identifying the xenograft growing in the immunocompromised host.
10. A non-human animal model for inflammatory breast cancer comprising an immunocompromised host animal inoculated with a human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft, wherein the xenograft grows within lymphatic and blood vessel channels and has the following properties:
- i) does not express estrogen receptor and progesterone receptor; and
 - ii) expresses P53, EGFR, MUC1 and E-cadherin.
11. The animal model according to claim 10, wherein the immunocompromised host animal is a nude mouse.

B4 12. (AMENDED) The animal model according to claim 10, wherein the human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft, is the xenograft designated MARY-X and having American Type Culture Collection Accession Number PTA-2737.

13-27. CANCELLED

28. (AMENDED) A method of identifying a molecule whose expression is modulated in inflammatory breast cancer comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft, wherein the xenograft grows within lymphatic and blood vessel channels of an immunocompromised host and has the following properties:

- 35
- i) does not express estrogen receptor and progesterone receptor; and
 - ii) expresses P53, EGFR, MUC1 and E-cadherin;

(b) determining the level of expression of at least one molecule in the human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft; and

(c) comparing the level expression of the molecule in the human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft to the level of expression of the molecule in a cell having characteristics which are distinct from the human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft.

29. The method according to claim 28, wherein the level of expression of the molecule of the inflammatory breast cancer xenograft is determined by a method selected from the group consisting of: Northern Blotting, Southern Blotting, Western Blotting and polymerase chain reaction.

30-49. CANCELLED

50. (NEW) The in vitro culture of a human inflammatory breast cancer xenograft of claim 6, wherein the xenograft is the xenograft having American Type Culture Collection Accession Number PTA-2736.

51. (NEW) The non-human animal model for inflammatory breast cancer of claim 10, wherein the xenograft is the xenograft having American Type Culture Collection Accession Number PTA-2737.

52. (NEW) The method of identifying a molecule whose expression is modulated in inflammatory breast cancer of claim 28, wherein the xenograft is the xenograft having American Type Culture Collection Accession Number PTA-2737.
